

William B. Blount Chairman

November 27, 2006

Mr. Philip N. Hogen Chairman National Indian Gaming Commission 1441 1 Street, NW Suite 9100 Washington, DC 20005

## Dear Chairman Hogen:

I am writing to make several observations with regard to the Poarch Board Creek Indians on an issue with grave economic implications to the Tribe.

Our investment banking firm has been following the gaming industry in the state of Alabama for the past ten years. I have personally toured each facility operated by the Tribe and those either by a private entity in Macon and Jefferson Counties and quasi-public entities in Green and Lowndes Counties. The Tribe is and has been at a district and definite disadvantage since

- a.) they have been unable to reach a compact with the Governor, despite repeated, good faith attempts, and
- b.) obvious superior machines at the private and quasi-public facilities.

Despite those economic disadvantages, the Tribe has persevered to build its gaming operations into a successful business generating jobs for Tribal members and non-Tribal employees. The gaming operation has allowed them to develop other businesses generating significant additional employment for Tribal members.

In the past ten years, I have been highly impressed with the Tribe and its leaders. They have been very respectful of the law and, in my view, have taken a very conservative approach, somewhat to their economic disadvantage.

Chairman Hogen, it is only fair and just that the Tribe be allowed to operate similar gaming operations as are currently being employed by these competitive facilities in the state of Alabama. The other operations are clearly permitted and it would be downright shameful not to level the playing field for the Tribe.

I would respectfully request that you consider action that would continue to provide economic benefit to our only recognized Tribe.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Right

Sincerely.

William B. Blount

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